

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

November 5, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

Dr. Dan Blower, Chair
Tim Yungfer, Vice Chair
Fred Bueter
Tom O'Brien
Sharon Conklin
Dave Goller
Walter Heinritzi
Capt. Mike Krumm
Mike Prince
Robert Ramels

Commissioners Absent

Charles Moser

Guests

Al Newell, Center for Truck Safety
Michelle Zemla, Center for Truck Safety
Chuck Simmons, Center for Truck Safety
Marie Barrett, MSP CJIC
Jeremy Russo, MSP CJIC
Lt. Susan Fries, MSP CVED
Cheryl Llano, MSP CVED
Larry Evener, Walmart Transportation
Pat Muinch, FMCSA

OHSP Staff

Kristin Allen
Kathy Farnum
Janet Hengesbach
Charlotte Kilvington
Ashley MacKinnon
Anne Readett
Julie Roth
Heidi Ruis
Spencer Simmons

ROLL CALL

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. Dan Blower, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions were made of those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** to accept the September 17, 2014 minutes was made by Mr. O'Brien and supported by Mr. Bueter. The **MOTION** carries.

STANDING REPORTS

A. Chair's Report – Dr. Dan Blower

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is giving support to UMTRI to reanalyze the 34- hour restart rule project. There is a question regarding the hours of services, etc. It's very controversial so they will restudy the information from the primary project initially then report findings back to FMCSA.

Dr. Blower has received word that the Motor Carrier crash file which is the primary file to identify unsafe carriers, does not have all of the crashes listed. Motor Carrier is supporting this project. The goal will be to try to validate the crash and do a better job of reporting in the future.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Fred Bueter – Michigan Department of State (MDOS)

Mr. Bueter thanked the staff from the MSP Crash section for attending today's meeting. He reported that larger, heavy trucks are going to be involved in more fatalities. MDOS working on some data they have

received regarding this. The Department of State continues to send letters to those who have not complied with submitting their updated medical certificates and are instead allowing them to lapse. Drivers have 60 days to send in their medical certificate or MDOS will send a non-CDL license in the mail back to the driver. There are 256,000 active CDL drivers, down from 300,000.

Capt. Mike Krumm – Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division

Captain Krumm reported that 11 new motor carrier officers graduated and they have been assigned throughout the state. Some of their new initiatives for this year include enhancing the technology affecting scales and locations across the state, and installing the Smart Roadside systems, etc. They are hoping to be run another Motor Carrier school early in 2015 for 30 candidates.

Walt Heinritzi – Michigan Trucking Association

Mr. Heinritzi reported that demand for freight is strong, and there is a demand for qualified truckers. Mr. Yungfer inquired about the cost of the sleep apnea studies – are there ways to reduce that cost? Mr. Bueter noted that a sleep apnea study is not a requirement to get a CDL, but they do have to pass the medical testing portion. If the sleep apnea testing is not done within 90 days, they won't drive until the test is complete. Doctors are highly recommending this test as fatigue is an issue with drivers. In some cases the doctors will not pass the drivers for a CDL if they do not do well with the testing. Dr. Blower suggested the commissioners gather together information regarding the sleep apnea testing in order to be a resource for the trucking industry.

Bob Ramels – General Public

Mr. Ramels inquired if the commissioners have read PA 248 regarding how the commission was formed and what the responsibilities are. Mr. Prince provided information regarding grants that the Michigan Truck Safety Commission and the Michigan Center for Truck Safety (MCTS) can apply for. OHSP has applied for grants to the FMCSA on behalf of the Truck Center and the Commission in the past.

Mike Prince – Office of Highway Safety Planning

Mr. Prince discussed charge of the OHSP office and staff. Currently, the Click It or Ticket mobilization is in effect until November 9. This will focus on seat belt use and impaired driving for all vehicle operators. The next enforcement is Operation Care and is scheduled for the Thanksgiving holiday time frame. The Michigan Traffic Safety Summit is scheduled for March 24-26, 2015 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

Tim Yungfer – General Public

No report

Sharon Conklin – Private Motor Carriers

Ms. Conklin reported that the next West Michigan Safety Council, Med One representatives will discuss marketing and how all of the necessary paperwork can be completed electronically and submitted electronically to MDOS. She inquired to Mr. Bueter if there is some way that a receipt can be printed rather than all of the information being submitted again. He will look into this.

Tom O'Brien – Michigan Community Colleges

Mr. O'Brien discussed the lack of professional type of truck driver training. At Muskegon Community College, a 5-week training program is required for drivers and students. Instructors would escort the students to the Secretary of State to get their CDL. Currently, that college has gone to a four week program. There are some driving schools that only require two weeks training. He is very concerned that not enough training is being given to drivers currently.

Dave Goller – Organized Labor

Mr. Goller discussed the lack of truck drivers. The average age of a driver on the road currently is 58. Money is not a factor as drivers can write their own paycheck. Turnover rates for drivers are high across the country. Most large companies are starting their own training school and are looking at recruiting military veterans.

B. Financial Report – Mr. Spencer Simmons

Mr. Simmons reviewed the most recent financial report ending September 30, 2014. There is a chance that the UCR fees may not be available any longer. He will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

C. Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Lt. Susan Fries

Lieutenant Fries reviewed each one of the objectives they selected for FY 2014 and noted that all are completed. She also discussed the media campaign which was added during the middle of the year. They placed 18 billboards throughout Michigan and secured 60 radio spots along with posters which talked about distracted driving with commercial vehicles.

D. Education Grant Activity Report – Mr. Al Newell

Mr. Newell reported that 3,200 welcome letters have been sent out to new entrants for training. The MCTS website is updated and the simulator computer will be replaced by mid-December. Mr. Newell also noted that he now has a full staff. Mr. Chuck Simmons discussed that they would like to start social media for the MCTS. They will also be updating the Truck Drivers handbook and should be completed by early January 2015.

ACTION ITEMS

1. 2015 MTSC Meeting Dates

The 2015 MTSC meeting dates were presented. There has been no change in the starting times or location. Mr. Yungfer made a **MOTION** to approve, Mr. O'Brien supported. The **MOTION** carries.

2. Approval of 2014 Annual MTSC report

The draft annual report was presented to the Commissioners in advance of the meeting. Mr. Prince made a **MOTION** to approve the report with one typo change, Mr. Ramels supported. The **MOTION** carries.

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

1. CVED Presentation – Capt. Mike Krumm

Captain Krumm gave the commissioners a brief overview of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division. Highlights include their role in the MSP Strategic Plan which has recently been updated, and another motor carrier school for 30 officers to start early 2015. Their objective is to reduce CMV crashes to 3% by 2017. Also want to reduce crashes which involve fatalities with CMVs to 8%.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Update on Proposed Truck Safety Projects – Charlotte Kilvington

Ms. Kilvington reviewed the truck safety projects which have been proposed. The commissioners approved an electronic records management system and discussed the other proposed projects. Following discussions, it was determined that two of the projects will be sent out for bid while one project will require additional information before a decision can be made. Mr. Bueter made a **MOTION** to move forward with the electronic records management system, Mr. Yungfer supported. The **MOTION** carries.

Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Bueter			
O'Brien			
Conkin			
Goller			
Heinritzi			
Krumm			
		Moser	
Prince			
Ramels			
			Blower

It will be necessary to start the RFP committee to review the other proposed projects. OHSP is approved to move forward in securing RFPs to get these projects started and will bring those back to the Commission for review during the March meeting.

2. Replace/update equipment for Michigan Center for Decision Driving (MCDD [Skid Pad])
Mr. Heinritzi reported that the equipment being used at the Skid Pad is old and outdated. There are four tractors and four trailers currently. He also reported there are capital items there which need attention such as infrastructure, computer items, and a watering system. The Center just signed a contract to update the communications system located at the Skid Pad.

They are trying to repair equipment or trade it out. They are looking for donors for some additional equipment. In order to maximize the number of students, they would like to have two additional tractors, two trailers, and a stray truck with air brakes. The operational arrangement at the Center will allow them to do this over time.

Following discussions, Mr. Yungfer suggested that Mr. Heinritzi put together a series of small proposals for the Commission. The Commission will review and determine what is needed. Also, perhaps review the scholarships to potentially increase the scholarship costs.

Mr. Prince suggested that the commissioners visit the MCDD and also resurrect the MCDD subcommittee. The following commissioners have volunteered to participate in the MCDD Subcommittee: Mr. Newell, Mr. Yungfer, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Heinritzi and a OHSP staff member. Mr. O'Brien has volunteered to chair this subcommittee. They are looking at visiting the venue in early December.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.